

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 5, 2003 LB 93

resource districts have available agronomists or soil scientists on staff to make determinations of rate recommendations for the application of fertilizers. These recommendations sometimes require deep soil testing, water testing, determination of nitrogen or phosphate residuals, and a background knowledge of soil fertility. By adding the University of Nebraska or certified crop advisors, it allows for a double checkpoint to make certain that the recommendations are followed by the producer. There are currently 817 certified crop advisors in Nebraska, and 15,000 such individuals internationally. This program is certified by the American Society of Agronomy, a scientific organization. Certified crop advisors are required to pass two rigid tests, one international test and one state test, specific to the crops, soil type, and regulatory standards of the state. They are also required to adhere to a code of ethics, demonstrate education, and experience and earn 40 hours of education every two years in nutrient management, soil and water management, pest management, and crop management. If you are a farmer and you have a crop advisor on your property, or you're working with, they are probably a certified crop advisor. As I mentioned, a certified crop advisor has been recommended under EPA's management program as essential third-party consultants in making nutrient recommendations. In closing, the natural resource districts would have a choice of utilizing recommendations from the university, which is currently being done by the Central Platte NRD, or a certified crop advisor. The fertilizer people in this state, and the people who sell our herbicides and insecticides, have asked for this amendment, even though the pesticides are not a part of the bill. So in the spirit of trying to get along with people and to make sure there are double-checks and to make sure crop advisors are included in recommendations that the NRD give. And I'm very confident that the recommendations the university would make and the recommendation that a certified crop advisor would make would be very similar. For that reason, I can support this amendment. And I hope you will also. I will be glad to answer any questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on AM0238 to LB 93. Open for discussion on that amendment. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senator Raikes. Senator